

AWFUL HAVOC BY EXPLOSION OF POWDER

Probably Fifty Persons
Killed, Hundreds Injured
and Town Wrecked.

FORTY THOUSAND KEGS EXPLODED

Superintendent Killed in His Office, Many Crushed by Collapse of Buildings, and Others Slain While Fleeing From Scene of Recurring Destruction.

FONTANET, IND., October 15.—Fontanet was practically destroyed to-day by the explosion of the plant of the Dupont Powder Company. The dead number from twenty-five to fifty. More than 600 persons were injured, and every building in the town was wholly or partially leveled to the ground. Where stood a thriving and busy town of 1,000 people this morning, to-night there is ruin and scattered wreckage. The dead and more seriously injured have been taken away. Five hundred inhabitants, all more or less wounded, remain to gather their scattered household goods and sleep under tents and on cots, guarded by soldiers of the State.

Without warning the powder mills, seven in number, blew up at 9:15 this morning. They employed 200 men, and of these seventy-five were at work when the first explosion occurred in the press mill. In quick succession the glazing mill, the two coining mills and the powder magazine blew up, followed by the cap mill.

In the magazine situated several hundred yards from the mills, were stored 40,000 kegs of powder. When it blew up the concussion was felt nearly 200 miles away. Farm houses two miles away and school houses equally distant were torn to pieces and their occupants injured. A passenger train on the Big Four Railroad, four miles away, had every car window broken, and several passengers were injured by flying glass.

Many Burns in Wreckage.
The mills went up with three distinct explosions, followed ninety minutes later by a fourth and even more serious one than the others, when the magazine went up. Immediately following the explosions the wreckage caught fire, and the inhabitants of the town who rushed to the rescue of the mill employees found themselves powerless to aid those burning in the ruins. They worked frantically in constant danger from possibly succeeding explosions and unmineral of their ruined homes. Dead and dying were picked up and collected.

Eighteen bodies, burned and mangled, were carted to a protected spot to await identification, while the badly injured, numbering upward of fifty, were taken to the local hospital. A special train to Terre Haute for hospital accommodations. Nearly every one of the 1,000 inhabitants carried blood on hands and face from his or her own wounds or those of people who had been killed. The mills were located one mile south of the town. With the first explosion the employees ran for safety, but most of them were killed or wounded by the quickly following explosions in the other mills. When the heat from the burning mills exploded the giant powder magazine later, practically destroying the town by the concussion, many of these engaged in rescue work were badly injured and several were killed.

Ladies Killed in Their Home.
Superintendent Monahan, of the plant, was killed while sitting in his office, and his wife and sister-in-law were killed in their home, some distance away.

That the death list is not far greater is due to the fact that the people of the town had left their houses at the first explosion, and were not in them when the explosion of the 40,000 kegs of powder in the magazine hurled their homes to pieces and scattered their household goods in heaps of debris.

Among the buildings totally destroyed in the town were the Methodist and Christian churches, the depot, all business blocks, including a large block just completed, a large warehouse and 500 homes. Three school buildings were destroyed, two at Fontanet and one at Coal Bluff, two miles away. All were filled with school children, and every one of these was more or less injured by the collapse of the buildings. A four-room school building was torn to pieces, and not one of the 200 children escaped unhurt. None was fatally hurt.

School Building Tarns Over.
The school building at Coal Bluff was turned over and collapsed. The teacher and ninety pupils were more or less injured.

Terre Haute and Brazil sent physicians and nurses with supplies in carriages and automobiles across country, while special trains were made up and run over the Big Four Railroad for the care of the injured.

Governor Hanly, at Indianapolis, ordered the Terre Haute company of the Indiana National Guard here to patrol the ruined district and protect life and property. The Governor arrived this evening about the time the soldiers reached here. He brought with him 700 tents and cots for the use of the homeless.

Two Dies Aboard Train.
When the wounded men were placed on board of the relief train to be taken to Terre Haute, a frantic rush was made by the wives, parents and children of the injured to establish the identity of those rescued. One man died on the train before it left. His name was Justice, and he had applied at the mill for work this morning. Another man expired as the train

SIXTEEN KILLED IN WRECK

English Passenger Train Derailed While Speeding Around Sharp Curve.

SHREWSBURY, ENGLAND, October 15.—A train made up of passenger coaches, bound from Scotland and the north of England to Bristol, left the rails as it was entering the station here at an early hour this morning. Sixteen persons, including ten passengers, were killed and many were injured.

The London and Northwestern Railroad, on which the train was running, curves sharply at its near Shrewsbury, and there is a standing order that the engineers must not exceed a speed of ten miles an hour at that point. The wreck of the train is believed to have been the cause of the accident. The engine and all the cars, with the exception of the last one, left the rails, and when the officials from the railroad station reached the spot the cars were a tangled mass of wreckage beneath which were the bodies of the dead and the injured. Fortunately the wreck did not catch fire, and the doctors and salvage crews, who soon reached the scene, did not have this hindrance to fight in the darkness and pouring rain, which, however, retarded the work of rescue, and several hours elapsed before the last body was taken out.

The killed included the engineer and fireman and the guard and postal clerks, who were in the mail car immediately behind the tender of the engine.

FONVILLE IS ACQUITTED

Jury, After Being Out Two Hours, Returns in Verdict of Not Guilty.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
GREENSBORO, N. C., October 15.—Percy P. Fonville, charged with aiding and abetting Francis H. Jones in the embezzlement of the funds of the Charlotte National Bank last March, was acquitted in the Federal Court this afternoon. The jury, after two hours' deliberation brought in a verdict of not guilty.

Yesterday Judge Boyd excluded Jones as a witness for the government on the plea of the defendant that he had been convicted of an infamous crime.

In charging the jury this afternoon the judge further instructed the jury that they must not consider this objection as prejudicial to the defendant.

It also ruled out of consideration by the jury all entries in the books of the bank showing the Jones and Fonville transactions on the plea of the defendant that these entries were made from slips furnished the bookkeeper by Jones, the teller, and not being made in Fonville's presence this evidence was incompetent as to him.

SAILORS HELD FOR MURDER

Three Men from the Franklin Arrested for Killing Baker Hastings.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., October 15.—Charged with being implicated in the murder in Norfolk of Thomas Hastings, a baker aboard the United States receiving ship "Franklin," the trial of October 15, at the U. S. District Court, Judge W. H. Forest, J. P. Kane and W. W. Whitcomb, sailors were brought over from the Franklin this afternoon and lodged in the Central Police Station.

Roscoe Wagner, another sailor, who was arrested on the night of the murder, and J. W. Hunt, are still held in solitary confinement. It is said, as witnesses in the case, Clinton Braxton, a negro gambler, is also charged with the crime and the police are on the lookout for him. His wife is being held as a witness. There are said to be developments in the case which the police or naval authorities have not yet divulged, but which are expected to develop tomorrow morning.

CHAT COST HIM NEAT SUM

Young American's Gallant Nightly Film Flamed by Pretty Parisienne.

PARIS, October 15.—A wealthy American during the lunch hour yesterday of the dress-making establishment of the Rue de la Paix got into conversation with two pretty young women who he thought were dressmakers. He promised to send them some picture postals from Milan and drew out his pocketbook and placed a card on it for them to write their addresses. Suddenly the bell rang and the girls rushed to hear, and the young woman rushed in, taking the pocketbook with them. It contained \$1,200. The police were notified and found that the girls were not known in any dressmaker's establishment in the neighborhood. As the victim is a married man and the father of a family, the authorities decline to reveal his identity except to say that his name begins with the letter "S."

FOOT GUARD IN WRECK

Several Members Shaken Up, But Not Seriously Injured.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
LYNNHURST, VA., October 15.—A special carrying Company I. Governor's Foot Guard, of Hartford, Conn., from Roanoke to Jamestown, Exposed, was wrecked early to-day, fourteen miles west of Lynchburg, by the engine side-swiping the rear end of a passenger train which was en route to the special in crossing from one track to another. The special's engine was demolished, as was a portion of the train.

Several members of the company were slightly injured. They were treated by the command's surgeon and for the reason the names could not be learned. Fireman Branch, of the special, had a sprained foot and he was taken to Roanoke. The special was delayed several hours.

CRUSHED BY STREET CAR

Norfolk's School Boy Killed Trying to Board Moving Car.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
NORFOLK, VA., October 15.—Charles Cohen, a high school boy, fifteen years old, son of Louis Cohen, a merchant, was killed in front of the school building this afternoon. The boy tried to board the car without stopping it, and was jerked beneath the wheels.

Conductor R. A. Harless and Motorcar M. McNeely, in charge of the car, were arrested on the charge of criminal negligence in connection with the death, but were released on bail.

FARMER BADLY HURT WHILE BREAKING A MULE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

SPOTSVYLD, VA., October 15.—A young man, an aged citizen of the county, while engaged in breaking a young mule yesterday was painfully and dangerously hurt. Mr. Puliam was thrown to the ground and dragged a considerable distance before he was loosed from the rope which was tied to the running mule.

WANT BATTLE ABBEY IN MONROE PARK

Confederate Association Asks Permission to Erect It There.

SUM OF \$200,000 NOW AVAILABLE

Dabney Liquor Ordinance, With Amendments, Goes Over to the Next Meeting—A. C. Nelson to Succeed Washer in Marshall Ward.

What the Board Did

Referred to Committee on Grounds and Buildings petition of Confederate Memorial Association to erect Battle Abbey in Monroe Park, at estimated cost of \$200,000.

Accepted resignation of Alderman Louis Washer, of Marshall Ward, and elected A. C. Nelson as his successor.

Concurred with Common Council in resolution authorizing the appointment of an Assistant City Attorney.

Laid on table, to be printed, with amendments, Dabney ordinance to regulate the sale of liquor in the City of Richmond.

In a petition to the Board of Aldermen last night, President J. Taylor Elyson, of the Confederate Memorial Association, asked permission to erect in Monroe Park at or near the center a suitable fireproof building, or Battle Abbey, to house the Confederate Memorial of the Confederate cause. The building will cost about \$200,000.

The petition states that that sum is now in bank for the purpose. After inspecting a number of sites the executive committee decided that Monroe Park was most suitable, and is prepared to proceed with the structure as soon as authority has been granted. Alderman Whittey, who presented the petition, had it referred to the Committee on Grounds and Public Buildings for immediate consideration.

It will be good news to Confederates throughout the South to learn that the long expected Battle Abbey is shortly to be erected, made possible by a liberal bequest from Mr. Charles Broadway Rouse, of Winchester and New York, and holding the note of the city of Richmond for a contribution toward the memorial. The site, here, the city to provide the site. The Battle Abbey fund has been recruited from all parts of the country, until \$200,000 is now in bank for the erection of the building. In general, it is proposed as a memorial where all the Confederate interests may center, providing a museum and public hall, a portrait gallery and meeting place for all kinds of Confederate memorial bodies, and a permanent fire-proof depository for Confederate relics of all kinds.

Amending Liquor Law.

Many other matters were taken up by the Board. Before Alderman Dabney could get in his amendment to the liquor ordinance, limiting the number of saloons to 150, hotels included, but exempting them from that section which says that no liquor shall be sold in the residential district, the Board of Aldermen sent the entire question to the table, to be taken up at the next regular meeting. Meanwhile, the ordinance will be printed, so that members may be fully advised as to its nature. Under the rules, it could not be put on its passage last night.

On motion of Mr. Dabney the Board concurred in the resolution authorizing the City Attorney to appoint an assistant, evidence being submitted to show the pressing need of help in the legal department of the city.

No time was lost in filling the Marshall Ward vacancy when the resignation of Mr. Louis Washer was presented. Alderman Satterfield nominated Mr. A. C. Nelson, an undertaker, of Fulton, and the Board promptly elected him. Mr. Satterfield said that Mr. Nelson would make a valuable member.

Several amendments were offered to the Dabney liquor ordinance, which was read. This came as a substitute to that originally offered by Alderman Eliot, fixing the license at \$1,000. Eliot, it provides that there shall be not more than 150 saloons, exclusive of hotels with more than twenty sleeping rooms; that the license shall be

(Continued on Eighth Page.)

3-CENT FARES OVERTHROWN

Financial Interest of Mayor Johnson Invalidates Approval of Franchise.

CLEVELAND, O., October 15.—Judge Lawrence, of the Common Pleas Court to-day declared illegal all franchises granted by the Council for so-called three-cent fare lines on the East Side, except a small section constructed on East Fourteenth Street, which covers about two blocks. The court held that the franchise for three-cent fares on the West Side were void because they were granted prior to the date upon which Mayor Johnson was alleged to have become financially interested in the roads. The decision holds that Mayor Johnson is now exonerated of financial interest in the low fare companies, his obligations having been canceled before the passage of the curative ordinance passed by the City Council August 31 last. The evidence exonerates Mayor Johnson, the court says, from any bad faith or fraudulent purpose in the transactions in controversy, and shows that his motive was to serve the public by lending his credit to an enterprise which he considered to be of great benefit to the people of Cleveland, but his action in the approval of these extension ordinances, other than the Rhodes Avenue grant, was opposed to the common law, which does not permit one to act as agent for the public in making a contract affecting his private interests.

STRUCK WITH WALKINGSTICK

Asheville Physician Attacks Trash for Alleged Insult to Ladies.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
ASHEVILLE, N. C., October 15.—As the result of a vulgar remark alleged to have been made by P. H. Trash, a whiskey distiller of this city, to some ladies at the polls during the prohibition election last Tuesday, Trash was today attacked on one of the principal streets of the city by Dr. L. B. McBrayer, a prominent physician. Trash's head was laid open by a blow from a walking cane, which the doctor carried, and his skull was slightly fractured. Both men were arrested and jailed.

P. H. Trash, accompanied by his uncle, D. V. Trash, was walking up Patton Avenue when he met Dr. McBrayer, who was walking toward the Opera House, they were all walking in the same direction. Trash, who was walking with much force on his cane, struck Dr. McBrayer on the head with the cane, and it is alleged Trash then drew a knife, but did not use it. He was bleeding profusely from a severe scalp wound. Bystanders interfered and pulled the men apart. The wound is considered a serious one, and is being held open for three and a half inches, ten stitches being necessary to close it.

EARTH TREMOR ALARMS

Massachusetts and New Hampshire Residents Excited by Severe Shock.

LOWELL, MASS., October 15.—The heavy rumbling of an earthquake was felt in this city and other towns at 7:10 o'clock to-night. The shock lasted two or three seconds and was followed by what appeared to be a sharp explosion. In a few instances and in many dwellings the dishes rattled. The earthquake alarmed persons in various sections of the city, and many of them ran from their homes, fearing that some great disaster was impending. So far as can be learned no damage was done at point. The shock was also felt in Lawrence, at Londerry, N. H., and other points in Southern New Hampshire.

DOCTOR KILLS NEGRESS

South Carolinian Shoots to Death Woman Who Recently Shot Him.

COLUMBIA, October 15.—Special to the State from Union S. C. says: Dr. W. L. Lindeer, a prominent young physician of this city, probably fatally wounded Lucy Lipsey, a negro woman, here to-day, firing three bullets into her body. On March 25th last the same woman shot Dr. Lindeer in the back without warning. The doctor, who is not a South Carolinian, is not definitely known. Dr. S. S. Lindeer, father of the young man, passed the scene just in time to witness the shooting. Young Lindeer surrendered to the sheriff and was placed in jail.

Lucy Lipsey died to-night. Dr. Lindeer will apply for release on bail.

MONTREAL STOCK PANIC

Heavy Decline in Railway Security Causes a General Break.

MONTREAL, October 15.—The decision of the directors of the Detroit United Railway to pass the dividend, and the subsequent heavy decline in the stock precipitated a general break in the local stock market. Almost all the active stocks on the list were down, the heaviest sufferers being Montreal Street, Dominion Iron and Steel, and Richlieu. At the close recoveries were general, though few stocks recovered the entire loss. Many Montreal people are reported to have lost heavily, but it is not thought any financial troubles will result.

PRESIDENT TAKES ICY SWIM IN LAKE

With the Mercury at Frost Mark He Enjoys Vigorous Plunge.

SWAM HUNDRED YARDS AND BACK

While Others Shiver Around Campfire, He Emerges, Declaring His Swim Exhilarating and Water Warm. Will End His Hunt Next Saturday.

STAMBOUL, I. A., October 15.—At 6 o'clock to-night no news of the President's hunt had been received here. Brutus Jackson, the negro hunter who went to Newellton to locate a camp there last week, returned to-day and brought a fresh supply of bear dogs with him. An effort is being made to secure even more dogs to take the place of the animals on hand, which are becoming more scarce.

Arrivals from the Bear Lake encampment tell marvelous stories of the President's hardihood and capacity for roughing it. When he carried his blankets with him from the upper camp last Friday, and that night and next morning ate only cold bread and meat he had taken from his saddle pocket, they marveled that a President could be so easily satisfied, but when he jumped into Bear Lake for a swim at daybreak this morning their astonishment was almost without bound. The thermometer registered 40 degrees, and most of the others in the party were hugging the camp fire.

It is not the President's purpose to close his hunt Saturday morning. On Monday morning he will leave for Vicksburg, where he is to speak Monday afternoon.

MUST REPORT OFFENDERS

Wake Forest Faculty Would Impose This Upon the Students.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
WAKE FOREST, N. C., October 15.—The faculty of Wake Forest University to-day passed resolutions of the boys last night at the meeting of the discipline committee with the committee of students, and presented a petition which they wish the students to sign. This reads:

"We, the undersigned students of Wake Forest College, request the faculty to reinstate the members of the student body recently suspended for hazing a fellow student, and we agree to co-operate with the faculty in practical ways in suppressing hazing in all forms. It is agreed that we shall report offenders openly and collectively." It is the general opinion that if this petition is signed by a number of good men the suspended students will be reinstated. No signatures have been gotten up to-night. The boys are kicking on the last clause. It is hoped by the students that the trustees, who meet in December, will act upon the recommendation of the faculty and allow Wake Forest to withdraw from the S. I. A. A., and work summer ball players on the college team.

KILLS COOK ON FLYING TRAIN

Wethers Stabs McDonald to Death and Makes His Escape.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]
MILWAUKEE, Wis., October 15.—With a special train No. 34, traveling at the rate of thirty miles an hour, Charles Wethers, an employee of the Pullman dining department, stabbed to death Walter McDonald, a third cook on the diner, and then leaped into space to escape his pursuers.

The tragedy followed a heated quarrel between the negroes in the kitchen of the diner, the cause of which is unknown. Conductor Pritchard and the trainmen made energetic efforts to catch the murderer, and failing, telegraphed to Charlotte, and a force of local policemen are now scouring the woods in this vicinity for him. McDonald's body was brought to Charlotte.

The homicide occurred just a moment before the engine blew for the State line, and the negro, if captured, will have to be tried in South Carolina.

There were no indications of foul play and very little likelihood of it, since it was known in the neighborhood that Taylor had lived in very modest circumstances, and supported himself by aid of his pension and the bare livelihood from the sale of a small quantity of groceries.

Taylor was without relatives in Virginia, as far as is known, though somewhere in the North two nieces, Misses May and Alice Taylor, aged twenty-two and nineteen, respectively, survive him. These young women visited the old soldier at intervals, and were with him for a short time last summer. He was communicative regarding his early life and relations, and as all papers relating to his family were burned, the coroner was at a loss as to whom to notify of his death. The incident and evidence will be compared with a report forwarded to Washington, where the Pension Department will be able to locate the dead man's heirs. Taylor had been a resident of this section for about twelve years.

BAD ANTI-JAPANESE RIOT

Drunken White Men Falls Through a Window and Outbreak Follows.

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., October 15.—Scores of white men were battered and ten or more Japanese injured in a riot of them seriously—in another anti-Japanese riot. The scene of the trouble, a restaurant and laundry, is a complete wreck. The trouble was occasioned by Joseph King, an intoxicated logger, who crashed into the window of the laundry conducted by Umeko Kubo at 422 Fell Street. The proprietor and his assistants dragged King into a rear room where a young Japanese stood guard, armed with a section of gaspipe, while the other Japanese hurried to summon the police.

Three intoxicated companions of King fell on other weeks and, and there followed a combined attack on the laundry, stones and clubs being used. The street soon was filled by a large crowd, and a dozen Japanese on the inside sought to repel the invaders.

The police soon arrived in an automobile and the riot end, which was sounded, brought strong reinforcements. The police charged the crowd with clubs and many were hit. After the battle was over King was found asleep in the rear room, innocent of the trouble he had caused.

TO PREVENT CHILD LABOR

Textile Conference Opposes Working Any Longer than Ten Years.

NASHVILLE, TENN., October 15.—Fully 200 delegates were present at today's session of the Southern Textile Conference. The committee on resolutions recommended that the age limit for children in the mills and factories shall be fourteen years. It was also recommended that the time limit for women and children shall be sixty hours a week, except where engaged in agricultural and domestic pursuits. The committee also recommended that children under sixteen years of age be not allowed to work between the hours of 5 P. M. and 7 A. M.; that all children be compelled to attend school sixteen weeks each year. The committee also recommended that all able-bodied men who have no visible means of support be declared vagrants; that no male under nineteen and female under seventeen be allowed to marry. The recommendations were unanimously adopted.

PRITCHARD INTERVENES

Federal Judge Enjoins Distribution of \$750,000 Dispensary Funds.

ATLANTA, GA., October 15.—A special order to the Journal from Columbia S. C. says: Judge Pritchard, of the Federal court, to-day issued a sweeping injunction restraining the State commission from winding up the affairs of the State dispensary or paying out any money belonging to it. The injunction ties up about \$750,000, which the commission has on hand for the payment of claims against the dispensary. The injunction was secured by a writ from Weldon N. C., which has a small claim against the State dispensary, and applied for a writ of mandamus to compel the commission appointed by Governor Ansel to wind up the affairs of the dispensary to pay their claims. Meanwhile the commission is continuing to pay out any money or other claims.

SMALL STILL HOLDS ON

Deposed Head of Commercial Telegraphers Denies He Is Suspended.

CHICAGO, ILL., October 15.—S. J. Small, the suspended president of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, arrived in Chicago from New York yesterday. Asked if he would make an effort to have himself reinstated at the convention, announced to be held here this morning, Mr. Small replied: "I shall not ask for reinstatement for the simple reason that I am not suspended. I am the president of the union, and so far as I know no call for a convention has been made. I am not a member of the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, which means that I am not a member of the union, and I don't care a rap what they say about me. I am the president, and I know what I am doing."

TRY TO GET O. R. T. OUT

The Negro Question.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Packard, of Maryland, taking the chair, and immediately after the noonday prayers for the day, the committee on memorial petitions, under the leadership of Mr. Packard, began the consideration of the memorial of the colored people. This committee, after making a most able and valuable report on the whole subject, offered a resolution allowing a diocese to elect one or more suffragan bishops under the restriction that the second plan, which embodied in the minority report, which corresponded with and was designated the Pennsylvania plan, gave permission to erect racial missionary districts with missionary bishops (not necessarily colored, however) within the territory of existing dioceses or missionary districts. The third was that new familiar territory, on memorial plan, giving the negroes three bishops and an autonomous church.

These were presented in the above order and discussed and voted upon in the reverse order.

TRANSFER OF CAPTAINS

Fire Board Makes Changes for Thirty Days Effective October 21st.

At a special meeting of the Board of Fire Commissioners last night, the following transfers were ordered for the period of thirty days, from October 21st:

Captain O. F. Wise, from Engine Company No. 4, to Engine Company No. 5; Captain F. C. Ramsey, Jr., from Engine Company No. 5, to Engine Company No. 9; Captain J. M. Meadors, from Engine Company No. 9, to Engine Company No. 4; Captain C. S. Atkinson, from No. 1 Truck to No. 2 Truck; Captain J. H. Hanke, from No. 2 Truck to No. 1 Truck.

MR. MARSHALL TO RUN

Will Oppose Colonel John W. Richardson for Register.

Mr. H. A. Marshall, of Charlotte county, has announced his candidacy for Register of the county at the next General Election, Colonel John W. Richardson, of Smyth.

Mr. Marshall has been for a number of years a bookkeeper with the Virginia Penitentiary, and is so employed at present. He said last night that he had made a preliminary canvass of the situation and was much encouraged at the outlook.

ASSAULTED CONDUCTOR

J. B. Dabney (Colored) Arrested on Broad and Twenty-fifth Street Car.

LOWER HOUSE TO VOTE FOR SUFFRAGANS

Committee of Whole Recommends Commission's Negro Plan.

UPPER BRANCH MAY NOT AGREE

Epoch-Making Debate in Convention Over Vexed Problem. Many Strange Theories Advanced—Addresses by Dr. Bryan and Others.

BY THE REV. JOHN H. BROWN, Secretary of the Diocese of Florida.

After an epoch-making debate lasting through the entire day the House of Deputies of the Episcopal General Convention, sitting as a committee of the whole, recommended as a disposition of the reported favorably on the plan for suffragan bishops, leaving the upper house still wrestling with a problem that is commanding the earnest attention of the entire church.

It being the last day on which new business could be introduced in the House, Deputies making resolutions and memorials were presented and quickly disposed of either by vote, by reference to committees or by placing them on the calendar. Among the matters reported by committees one of particular interest both to the Episcopal Church and to other denominations. It concerns what is commonly spoken of as the open pulpits. Though the committee felt constrained to report it inexpedient at this late period of the session, to consider legislation on the subject of lay evangelists, they reported favorably on a second resolution suggesting an amendment to canon 19. "Of persons not ministers in this church officiating in any congregation thereof." The present canon prohibits any one not licensed or ordained to minister in the church from officiating in any Episcopal church or worshipping, allowing, however, communicants to act as lay readers. It is proposed to amend this by permitting the minister of any congregation to allow any Christian person, approved by the bishop of the diocese, to preach in the church.

This has been known for some time to the committee to the House of Deputies, and if passed by this convention will go a long way toward breaking down prejudice against the church on the part of other Christians, while it will still accomplish the whole purpose of the old canon, that of protecting the people from all danger of harmful teaching.

Eleven o'clock was set as the hour for presenting the negro question in its various phases, but, being the twelfth day, the order of the day was postponed to give an opportunity for the presentation of new business. Many resolutions of more or less interest were presented, but the most important being one from Dr. Huntington on the Thirty-eight Articles, one from a deputy from West Virginia to appoint a committee to rearrange the order of the Thirty-eight Articles, one from the Commercial Telegraphers' Union, which they would not enter into a strike, and one from Mr. Pepper to give legislative power to the conferences of the missionary departments. If these last two are adopted the church will virtually have a provincial system in embryo, and upon this the provinces will eventually be erected.

The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Packard, of Maryland, taking the chair, and immediately after the noonday prayers for the day, the committee on memorial petitions, under the leadership of Mr. Packard, began the consideration of the memorial of the colored people. This committee, after making a most able and valuable report on the whole subject, offered a resolution allowing a diocese to elect one or more suffragan bishops under the restriction that the second plan, which embodied in the minority report, which corresponded with and was designated the Pennsylvania plan, gave permission to erect racial missionary districts with missionary bishops (not necessarily colored, however) within the territory of existing dioceses or missionary districts. The third was that new familiar territory, on memorial plan, giving the negroes three bishops and an autonomous church.

These were presented in the above order and discussed and voted upon in the reverse order.

The debate was opened by the Rev. W. D. Buckner, of Arkansas, followed by Mr. John T. Hicks, of Arkansas. The former presented the plan, not as an effort to cut the negroes off from the church, but to give them the whole church.

But if any were afraid of this he called their attention to the fact that the resolution carried by the Arkansas petition provided merely for a commission to consider this proposition and report at the next General Convention.

Mr. Hicks presented the plan in a more logical manner by stating and answering the four objections he had heard raised: First, that it conflicted with the church's policy of unity; second, that the negro is not worthy of the episcopate; third, that the negro preachers to be taken into the white organization, and fourth, that if the episcopate be given to the negro he will abuse it and will depart from the faith. Having answered these, he gave what he believed to be ten patent reasons for adopting the plan. The argument was drawn largely on distinct racial lines. There was a strong feeling against this erection of an autonomous church, and before the morning session adjourned the committee, by vote, rejected the whole idea.

As soon as the house convened after